

MEETING RECORD

Citizen Advisory Committee Meeting January 6, 2015

CAC in Attendance: Gure Ali, Lisa Cote, Adam Dow, Kelli Aiken Flynn, Belinda Gerry, Joe Gray, Rob Kilgore, Adam Lee, Steve Letourneau, Larry Pelletier, Tom Poulin, Doris Russell, Theresa Smith, Mitch Thomas, Judy Webber and Rick Whiting

Consultants: Frank O'Hara

Staff: Reine Mynahan and Lori Lewis

Guests: Alan Manoian

Welcome:

Reine Mynahan welcomed everyone back to today's meeting.

Minutes:

Review the meeting minutes of December 2 and December 10, 2014.

Motion: by Mitch Thomas to approve the minutes of the meeting on December 2 and December 10, 2014.

2nd by Judy Webber

Vote: 14-0-1 in favor, motion carried.

Review Community Development Materials:

Social Services

Reine reviewed the amounts given, requested and the numbers that were served by the grants in the past 2 years.

- 10 Agencies are being funded
- The amount requested was not always the amount awarded to the agency
- The amounts that CDBG gives are small compared to what each agency needs.
- There is a social service cap that limits the amount that is available.
- The money comes from CDBG not from the City's budget.

Budget for FY2014 and projected FY2015

Reine went over the handouts of the budgets which included:

- Planning and Administration
- Economic Development—Curb Appeal, Small Business and Commercial Loan Programs
- Affordable Housing—Rehabilitation Loans, Lead Testing, Community Concepts Weatherization and Code Enforcement
- Public Improvements—New Auburn River Trail, Edward Little Park, Shoe-Maker Alley, Wi-Fi in Downtown, Walton School Outdoor Learning Center
- Acquisition and Demolition of deteriorated buildings—we have demolished 20 units over the past few years.
- Public Services—10 Agencies
- Projected carry over—HOME Sale of 132 Hampshire Street and loan repayments
- Some of the HOME funds had to be spent or they would have been lost

Goals:

Frank went over the information that was discussed at the last meeting and put it together the goals based on conversations the committee had in previous meetings. The committee then ranked the goals in order of importance. These will be the priorities for the 5 year plan.

Required by HUD in order of committee ranking

- Break the cycle of poverty
- Basic rehabilitation (health & safety repairs) to housing stock
- Address the issue of homelessness
- Promote fair housing

Among those not required by HUD, but important to committee, in order of committee ranking

- Promote jobs and redevelopment of downtown
- Make neighborhood streets safer and more walk-able
- Improve external appearances of properties in target areas
- Increase owner-occupancy in target area
- Better playgrounds, parks and gardens
- Support new housing construction

Strategies:

Poverty/homelessness:

- Start at the youth age; afterschool programs, PAL (at risk kids), and teach the older children soft skills
- Mentoring including the parents
- Child care with the condition that the parents are going to work or go to school
- Create rental directory of available units and display the tenant's rights

Rehabilitation:

- Code efforts—volunteer code enforcement similar to the neighborhood watch program
- Fund code enforcement; a certificate program for landlords, get tenants to work with code enforcement
- Study of the code enforcement program
- Match for Lead grants – 3 years

Fair housing:

- Educate tenants and landlords; someplace they can call to get answers to questions

Downtown:

- There was no support for the addition of parking lots
- Create more on-street parking and slow down traffic
- CDBG business loans—less paperwork
- More integrated network between banks, CDBG and LAEGC

Neighborhoods (New Auburn and Union Street):

- Match CDBG funds with other funds
- Better lighting and safe green spaces

Appearances:

- Public improvements—focus on lighting
- Expand rehab to higher income limits
- HOME improvements for health & safety
- Could do accessible apartments

Owner Occupancies:

- 1st time homebuyer programs
- More money for low-mod income
- Lack of knowledge of the programs that are available
- Host a program to raise awareness, include realtors, bankers, Auburn housing, etc.

Parks, playgrounds and gardens:

- Use the parks for concerts which will keep them in use at night
- Create one large central park with clear edges
- More lights on Union Street park
- Connect the parks with natural connections
- Be careful what businesses go in near parks

Frank will be taking all of the goals and strategies and putting them together into a planning document.

Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,



Lori Lewis

Community Development Assistant